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Mr. Lesley desired to place on record the recent exposure of a bed of solid brown hematite iron ore, at the upper limit of No. II, Lower Silurian Limestone Formation, in Leathercracker Cove, Morrison's Cove, Middle Pennsylvania, of very unusual size. The bed is nearly vertical and 72 feet thick, where cut across by a water drift. No such deposit has been before discovered at this horizon, in a situation favorable for exact measurement.

Pending nominations 669, 670 were read, and the reading of the list of members was postponed, and the Society was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, February 17, 1871.

Present, ten members.

MR. FRALEY, Vice President, in the Chair.

Mr. Carey accepted by letter, the appointment to prepare an obituary notice of Mr. Colwell.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the New York, New Jersey, and Georgia Historical Societies (85); Cincinnati Observatory (85); Smithsonian Institution (84 and XIV. 2), and Reichenbach N. H. Society (78, 79, 80).

Donations for the Library were received from the Royal Academy and Observatory at Turin, Levant Herald at Constantinople, London Nature, Philadelphia Journal of Pharmacy, Medical News, McCalla & Stavely, the Librarian of Congress, and the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

No. 85 of the Proceedings, just published, was laid on the table.

The death of John F. James, a member of the Society, at Philadelphia, Feb'y 5, was announced by the Secretary.

Mr. Lesley asked for information respecting the alleged discovery of a hewn cave and crypt with hieroglyphics, skeletons, vases, &c., lately made by a railroad engineering party

in Iowa; and connected it with Baron Burek's account of the traditions he found among the Aztecs, of the migration of that race or tribe from the Northeast or Upper Mississippi and Missouri country.

Mr. Coxe described a locality at Baker's Run, on the West Branch of the Susquehanna, where the great freshets of 1863 uncovered ancient hearths and numerous large vases, all of which were soon broken and scattered by the curious.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Board of officers were read.

Dr. Emerson introduced the subject of Lunar Influence, or supposed influence, upon the conditions of wet or dry weather.

ON LUNAR INFLUENCE *upon the Conditions of Wet or Dry Weather*,
by DR. EMERSON.

(*Read before the American Philosophical Society, February 17, 1871.*)

That the moon exerts such an influence, he said, is a very old opinion, widely spread at the present day, and even maintained by many distinguished philosophers. A great deal of attention has been devoted to tabulating atmospheric observations in relation to the conditions of the weather at the quarterly changes of the moon. The results of such laborious investigations have, however, not been found to agree, some reports seeming to favor the existence of lunar influence in producing wet and dry weather, and others, to show that no such influences are exerted by the moon upon the hygrometric conditions of our atmosphere. Among the many who have engaged in investigating this subject I will only refer to the celebrated Italian philosopher Toaldo, whose observations were extended through a period of forty-five years, and to Pilgram, whose observations were extended through a period of fifty-two years. For some reason which I shall not attempt to explain or examine, the conclusions of these indefatigable observers and inquirers *were the very opposite of each other.*

The circumstance which has perhaps contributed most to strengthen the belief in lunar influence upon the weather, is the well known agency exerted by the satellite upon the ocean and atmosphere, in the production of tides and barometrical fluctuations. Both of these phenomena are attributable to the force of *gravitation*, acting between the earth and moon, and giving rise to ocean and atmospheric waves.

The atmosphere surrounding our earth consists : first, of a mixture of permanently elastic gases ; and secondly, of a changeable atmosphere of watery vapor, depending for its suspension entirely upon heat. This